



GWI UPDATE – 2 September 2020

On International Literacy day 2020, GWI celebrates the power of literacy as a critical game-changer for women and girls' personal development

8 September 2020

#InternationalLiteracyDay2020
#GWIForLiterateWomen&Girls

On International Literacy Day 2020, GWI reminds of the critical role educators and their teachings play as agents of empowerment for women and girls.

— Graduate Women International News —

2019 Marjorie Shaw Fellowship winner, Mireille Widmer, presents her work in Nepal - Video

In 2019, Mireille Widmer, PhD student from the United Kingdom Institute of Development Studies, was awarded with the Graduate Women International (GWI)/ British Federation of Women Graduates (BFWG) Marjorie Shaw Fellowship for her research project honing down on the governance of security in a secondary city in the Nepali plains, Janakpur. Women and men priorities and approaches differ when it comes to security, and Mireille Widmer's research highlights the benefits of an inclusive participation of women in local governments to address the issues of security in the urban space. **Widmer produced an insightful video summary of her ongoing work, accessible [HERE](#).** GWI and BFWG are proud to support her critical research into the necessity of equal gender representation in all spheres of government and decision-making. Widmer's research will have far-reaching benefits for both an academic and developmental perspective, as she intends to build on her thesis by broadening this research to further cities. There is much to learn from a comparative study of urban security governance, which unfortunately was not manageable through a single PhD. She is also interested in taking up teaching activities, to pass on some of her experiences and insights to the next generation of development practitioners.

Bina Roy Partners In Development (BRPID) Indian Federation of University Women's Associations (IFUWA) Project, India

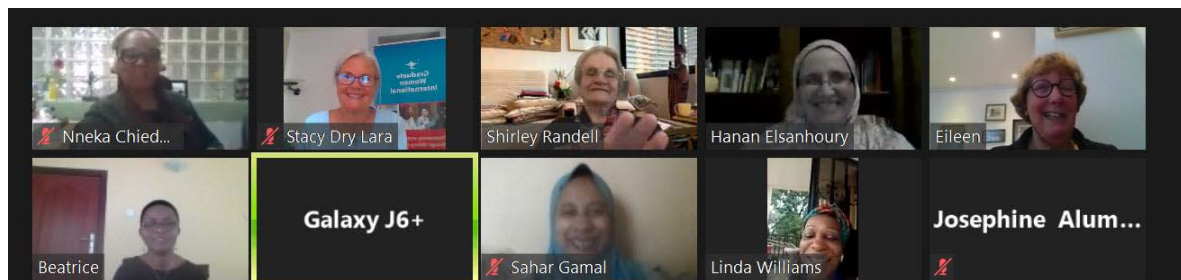
GWI member Prof. Seema Singh, Hon. President of the University Women Association of Delhi (UWAD) and Dr. Antra Singh from the Dehli Technological University, India, issued an Update write up entitled, "Women Empowerment in India: A Critical Analysis". This paper is a preliminary study by the UWAD for their BRPID project "Enhancing Employability Skills for Empowerment of Girls and Young Women" funded by GWI. This informative article provides an overview about the notion of empowerment for women and specifically analyses the case women empowerment in India with numerous resources and data. GWI congratulates Prof. Seema Singh and Dr. Antra Singh's for their important work and their commitment to the IFUWA BRPID project. Click [HERE](#) to read the full article.

— GWI Member News —

Women Graduates-USA (WG-USA) member Dr. Tatjana Kobb appointed to Rotary International United Nations Post

WG-USA member and co-convener of the Global Women's Health Group, Dr. Tatjana Kobb, was recently appointed to the position of Rotary International Representative to the United Nations. Rotary is an organisation committed to providing humanitarian aid and like GWI, it has been heavily involved in the United Nations since its creation. GWI congratulates WG-USA and Dr. Kobb on her appointment. Click [HERE](#) for more information on Dr. Kobb's work and on her appointment.

GWI Regional Group, Federation of University Women Africa (FUWA) Meet and Greet

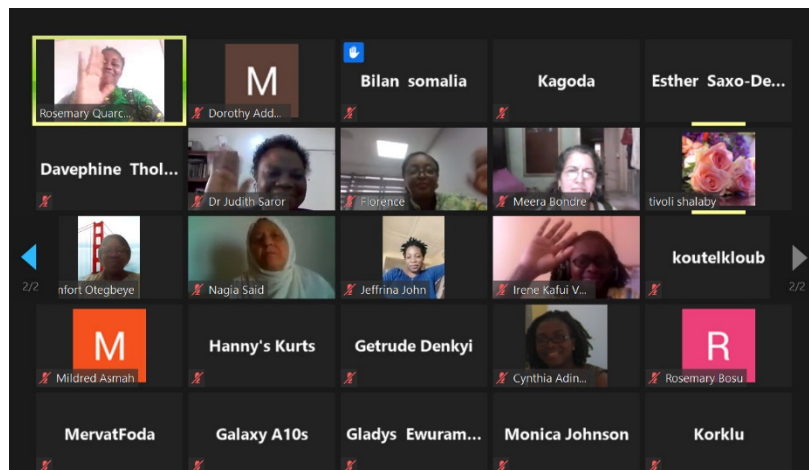


FUWA Meet and Greet participants

Since its election during GWI's Centenary Celebration (July 2019), FUWA's Board has actively engaged in regular communications with GWI's African members. These communications revolved around FUWA's triennial action plan, constitutional amendments, a creative contest, the expected mid-triennial regional meeting and sharing experiences related to the current pandemic.

Believing in the strength of knowledge as a powerful tool of empowerment, FUWA's Board shared links of useful resources related to matters such as the Covid-19 pandemic, Gender Based Violence (GBV) and online cultural activities.

In collaboration with FUWA Board, GWI's staff and Membership Committee, FUWA held its maiden virtual "Meet & Greet" on 7 August 2020. More than 40 members, from NFAs representing the four cardinal directions of the continent, met to bond and share experiences related to means of coping with Covid-19 and its effect on education and GBV.



FUWA Meet and Greet participants

— Advocacy —

International Literacy Day

The 8 September was designated International Literacy Day (ILD) by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) in 1966 to highlight the importance of literacy for all individuals globally. The recent COVID-19 crisis has affected the access to literacy for the most vulnerable people in the world, especially women and girls, due to school closures. GWI highlights that not only enrolment at school is critical, but also digital and online access to e-learning is mandatory and that literacy allows youth and adults, especially women and girls to fully contribute to the community and acquire critical skills for their future professional and personal life. This year, GWI marks ILD with the release of an [infographic](#) with impactful information on literacy which we encourage you to share widely. The [infographic](#) can be viewed and downloaded [HERE](#). We also invite you to share GWI's social media campaign running from 6 to 8 September on the GWI [LinkedIn](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#) pages.

Child marriage and COVID-19 - Girls Not Brides advocacy toolkit

Girls Not Brides, one of GWI's key advocacy partners, has developed a newsworthy toolkit providing ready-to-use and impactful resources to help continue global advocacy efforts to end child marriage during the covid-19 pandemic. Girls and women, particularly amongst the poorest and social marginalised groups, will be among those most affected by the pandemic. Now is the time to strengthen advocacy efforts to ensure girls and the most vulnerable are at the centre of all government efforts to tackle covid-19 in both the acute and recovery phases of the pandemic. The toolkit includes key messages on prioritising girls during the covid-19 response, tips and tricks for engaging decision-makers and ideas of how to link national advocacy efforts with other global campaigns. More information [HERE](#).

— GWI at the United Nations —

GWI Discussion: Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) - Emerging Patterns of Discrimination against Women

In July, GWI opened a very important discussion on the GWI Discussion Network as an opportunity to submit communications to the CSW in order to help identify emerging trends and patterns of injustice and discriminatory practices against women. From this discussion were raised several issues impacting women in different parts of the world. One of the main concerns raised arose from the current pandemic situation, putting women across the world at risk of seeing their fundamental rights being violated. The discussion also led to voice concerns regarding inclusion of women in political negotiations in Afghanistan, over grave violations of human and women's rights threatening women's lives in Spain and the case of Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls in Canada. Click [HERE](#) to read the full GWI CSW Communications summary. GWI thanks its National Federations and Associations (NFAs) for their precious contributions. Communications collected should be submitted by GWI to the CSW.

UN Human Rights Council (HRC) 2020 Elections - NFA Candidates

The [HRC](#) is an inter-governmental body within the United Nations system responsible for strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights around the globe and for addressing situations of human rights violations and make recommendations on them. Through Council membership, States commit themselves to 'uphold the highest standards in the promotion and protection of human rights,' and to fully cooperate with the Council and its mechanisms. Every year, GWI issues a statement for each session of the HRC meeting at the UN Office in Geneva. In 2020, among the countries candidate to the October 2020 HRC Elections are several NFA countries: Senegal, Pakistan, Nepal, Russia, Bolivia, Mexico, France and United Kingdom. The International Service for Human Rights (ISHR) has developed a tool to rate the

candidates and provided a list of concrete measures that each candidate should commit to implement as a Council member. To learn more about how NFA State candidates rate according to ISHR tool, what they are recommended by ISHR to pledge and what they have pledged to do as Council members, click [HERE](#).

— Call for applications —

International Marie S. Curie FRIAS COFUND Fellowship Programme (FCFP) 2021/22

The University of Freiburg offers a fellowship programme, the Marie S. Curie “FRIAS COFUND Fellowship Programme (FCFP)” for the academic year 2021/2022. About 25 fellowships of 3 to 12 months will be awarded through a highly competitive, strictly merit-based selection process. This programme offers outstanding international researchers, both on the junior and the senior level, an opportunity to apply for an extended research stay at the Freiburg Institute for Advanced Studies in all disciplines. The **deadline** for application is **30 September 2020**. More information about the fellowship can be found [HERE](#).

American Association of University Women (AAUW) Grants and Fellowships 2020

The AAUW, former GWI affiliate, offers a series of fellowships and grants for ambitious women in the US and around the world. These funding opportunities are provided to women scholars conducting research, women who are preparing to advance or change careers or re-enter the workforce in education, health and medical sciences, or social sciences. Deadlines to apply vary between 1 November and 1 December depending on the grant. More information about the fellowships and grants can be found [HERE](#).

— Give the gift of membership —

[Give the gift of membership](#) to the outstanding graduate women in your life! GWI membership allows graduate women to join the leading women’s international organisation that works to empower girls and women through access to lifelong, quality education and training. Give the gift of membership to become part of a global community of some 16’000 members in 60 countries, either as a [GWI independent member](#) or national member of one of our [NFAs](#).

— Did you know? —

GlobalGiving is the fundraising platform, which [GWI uses for its fundraising effort](#). At some various times of the year, GlobalGiving launches special fundraising campaigns to match the donations. And guess what? The next [Little by Little Matching Campaign](#) is about to start! From 14 to 18 September included, GlobalGiving will match 50% of any donations made in this five-day period at a value of \$50 or less. GWI will participate in this campaign to fundraise for ‘[Train 50 women teachers in Uganda to educate 1000s](#)’. Take this opportunity to join the fundraising effort, click [HERE](#) to donate from 14 September.



14-18 SEPTEMBER
2020



– Other information and events –

8 September	International Literacy Day, Global
14 Sept-2 October	Human Rights Council, 45 th session, United Nations Office, Geneva
18-20 September	Centenary of the French Association of University Women (AFFDU)
21 September	International Day of Peace, Global
5 October	World Teacher's Day, Global
11 October	International Day of the Girl Child, Global
15 October	International Day of Rural Women, Global
17 October	International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, Global
24 October	United Nations Day, Global
17 November	International Students' Day, Global
19 November	World Toilet Day, Global
20 November	Universal Children's Day, Global
25 November	International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, Global
25 Nov-10 Dec	16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, Global
9 December	Anti-Corruption Day, Global
10 December	Human Rights Day, Global
18 December	International Migrants Day, Global
20 December	International Human Solidarity Day, Global

Follow us on social media!



Empowering women and girls through lifelong education for leadership, decision-making and peace. GWI, formerly IFUW, is in special consultative status with ECOSOC since 1947 and is an NGO maintaining official relations with UNESCO and ILO.

Graduate Women International

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